

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
(Baltimore Division)**

In re: Charese R. Kirkland, * Case No. 09-13413
Debtor. * Chapter 13

* * * * *

MOTION TO DIRECT PAYMENT

NOW COMES Counsel, Jeffrey M. Sirody, Esq., and the Law Firm of Sirody, Freiman & Feldman, P.C., and moves this Court to direct that certain funds held by the Chapter 13 Trustee be paid to Counsel, and states:

1. The Debtor filed for Relief under Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code on March 2, 2009. Pursuant to the 2016(b) filed with the Court, Counsel charged a flat fee for representation of \$4,500.00, of which \$1,500.00 was paid before the case was filed. The Chapter 13 Plan proposed and filed provided for the payment of the balance of attorney's fees through the Plan.
2. That on April 22, 2010 the Honorable Court issued an Order Denying Confirmation of the Chapter 13 Plan without Leave to Amend.
3. As of the date of the filing of this Motion, the Chapter 13 Trustee was holding \$3,829.50 in Debtor payments.
4. Counsel requests that the Chapter 13 Trustee pay Counsel directly from the monies he is holding towards the balance of attorney's fees due, and, if the monies he is holding are in excess of the total fees, to refund the balance of the funds to the Debtor.
5. Pursuant to 11U.S.C. § 330(a)(4)(B), "In a Chapter 12 or Chapter 13 case in which the Debtor is an individual, the Court may allow reasonable compensation to the debtor's attorney for representing the interests of the debtor in connection with the bankruptcy case based on a consideration of the benefit and necessity of such services to the Debtor and the other factors set forth in this section." Therefore, in a Chapter 13 case, Debtor's Counsel is within the scope of § 330(a), and as counsel fees are administrative expenses, they are entitled to payment directly from funds held by the Chapter 13 Trustee.
6. Pursuant to a Retainer Agreement, dated October 28, 2008, Debtor has assigned her interest in the funds held by the Trustee to the extent that Counsel is still owed fees or expenses. The Agreement provides in pertinent part, "If a . . . Trustee remits funds to the Attorney, which are payable to the Client, the Client hereby

authorizes the Attorney to . . . deposit them into the Attorney's escrow account. The Client further gives the Attorney an absolute power . . . to apply said funds for any expense . . . or to apply said funds to any balance owed . . .”

7. The balance owed under the Agreement is \$3,000.00. It was a flat fee agreement/contract. Paragraph 4(B) of Appendix F creates a rebuttable presumption that a flat fee, not to exceed \$4,500.00 is presumed reasonable. As stated above, the client has paid only \$1,500.00 up front, leaving \$3,000.00 unpaid. Payment of the \$3,000 to Counsel by the Trustee will satisfy the flat fee agreement/contract, and be less than the quantum meruit fee demonstrated in the time sheets attached as Exhibit A.
8. Counsel respectfully submits and hereby affirms to the Court that the fees for the legal services expended and the legal services performed on behalf of the Debtor were both reasonable and necessary, based on the customary compensation charged by Counsel and other comparably skilled attorneys. Counsel further submits for the purposes of this Motion, that the flat fee analysis of paragraph 4(B) of Appendix F is a proper and equitable basis on which this Court may make an allowance for fees.
9. Counsel has made no allowance for sharing of compensation with any third party.

WHEREFORE, Counsel prays that the Court order the Chapter 13 Trustee to pay the fees requested in this application directly to Counsel from the payments held by the Chapter 13 Trustee.

Respectfully submitted,

SIRODY, FREIMAN & FELDMAN, P.C.

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Sirody
Jeffrey M. Sirody, # 11715
Sirody, Freiman, and Feldman, PC
1777 Reisterstown Road, Ste 360E
Baltimore MD 21208

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this May 17, 2010, a copy of the foregoing Motion to Direct Payment was delivered by electronic means to:

Case Trustee

US Trustee

and mailed, first class, postage prepaid to: all creditors on attached matrix, and the Debtor.

/s/ Jeffrey M. Sirody
Jeffrey M. Sirody

Charese R. Kirkland, Case#: 09-13413
Creditors

Barkley Woods Homeowners Association, Inc.
c/o Michael S. Neall & Associates, PC
P O Box 488
Arnold, MD 21012

Cap One
Pob 30281
Salt Lake City, UT 84130

Citifinancial
Po Box 499
Hanover, MD 21076

CitiFinancial, Inc.
P.O. Box 70919
Charlotte, NC 28272-0919

Comptroller of the Treasury
Compliance Division, Room 409
301 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Countrywide Home Loans
450 American St
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP
7105 Corporate Drive, Mail Stop PTX-C-35
Plano, TX 75024

Deputy County Attorney
Baltimore County Office of Law
400 Washington Avenue, 2nd Floor
Towson, MD 21204

eCAST Settlement Corporation assignee of Capital
One Bank
POB 35480

Newark NJ 07193-5480

Hsbc Bank
Po Box 5253
Carol Stream, IL 60197

Lendmark
Incomplete Address Provided

Lendmark Financial Services
142 Eastern Blvd.
Baltimore MD 21221

Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation
PO Box 660366 Dallas, Texas 75266

Nissan-Infiniti Lt
INVALID ADDRESS PROVIDED

PRA Receivables Management, LLC
As Agent Of Portfolio Recovery Assocs.
POB 12914
Norfolk VA 23541

State of Maryland DLLR
Division of Unemployment Insurance
1100 N. Eutaw Street, Room 401
Baltimore, MD 21201

Supervisor of Delin. Accts.
Rm. 1 Municipal Building
Holliday & Lexington Streets
Baltimore, MD 21202